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VII.—*Notes on the River Aquiry, the principal Affluent of the River Purús.* By W. CHANDLESS, Esq., M.A., Gold Medallist, R.G.S.

(Read Feb. 25, 1867.)

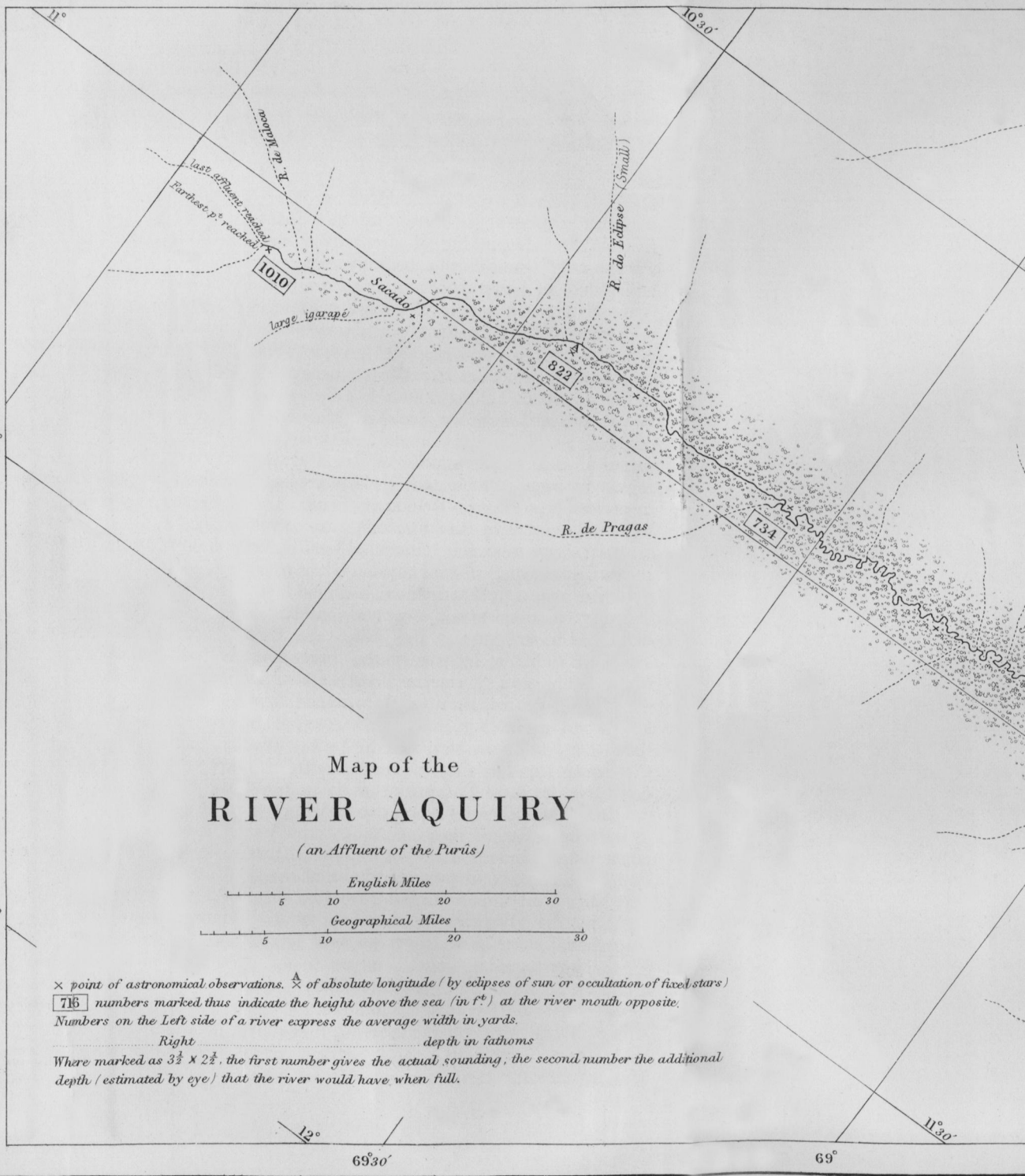
THE Aquiry enters the Purús on the right, in lat. $8^{\circ} 45'$ s., long. $67^{\circ} 23'$ w. In writing of the Purús in 1865, I spoke of the Aquiry as bringing down a body of water equal to that of the main river, and as being possibly equal, or even superior, to that in size and importance: in this, however, I was entirely deceived; it is merely a tributary, though a large one—inferior both in length and width. It is somewhat less tortuous, but, being narrower, its reaches also are shorter, and the turns more abrupt. From the mouth to about 11° s. sand-banks (*praias*) are scarce, far apart and small; at low water, however, many flats of hard clay at the edge of the "*terra firme*" are left dry, and in parts also banks or ridges of this in the middle of the river, with occasional reefs of rock. In some of these places I found fossil bones—two vertebræ in perfect preservation—which Professor Agassiz while in Manáos was kind enough to examine, and pronounced to be of the *Mos-saurus*; there was also a turtle of an extinct species, and some smaller fragments. Petrified wood is not common, as on the Purús, but some pieces half-carbonised now and then appeared; in parts an ashy efflorescent salt is rather abundant, whether saltpetre or not I cannot say.

The Hypurinás, Indians of the Purús, extend up the Aquiry eight or ten days' journey. From some of these, in about lat. $9^{\circ} 40'$ s., we learnt that they travel (to buy implements of stone) in three and a half days E.S.E. to another river, smaller than the Aquiry, they said, which we supposed to be the River Ituxý (affluent of the Purús below); they did not give this name, but spoke of the point they go to as Puriquity; and it is known from Hypurinás of the Ituxý, that there is a point so called a good way up that river. It is to be remarked that the Aquiry from its mouth to 11° s. has not a single affluent on the right, beyond mere little streams—not even a good-sized *igarapé*—showing that the ground from very near that bank must slope to the east towards some other river.

Above the Hypurinás, from about $9^{\circ} 45'$ to $10^{\circ} 45'$ s., are the Capéchenes, a tribe of which we saw nothing at all, as they live a good way inland. They seem not to use canoes but rafts (now and then of wood, but generally of "*frecheira*") which probably serve merely as ferry-boats, and not for navigation up or down river; in one snag-choked narrow they had made a temporary bridge from snag to snag; perhaps during some migration. Manoel Urbano in his journey (at an earlier time of year than

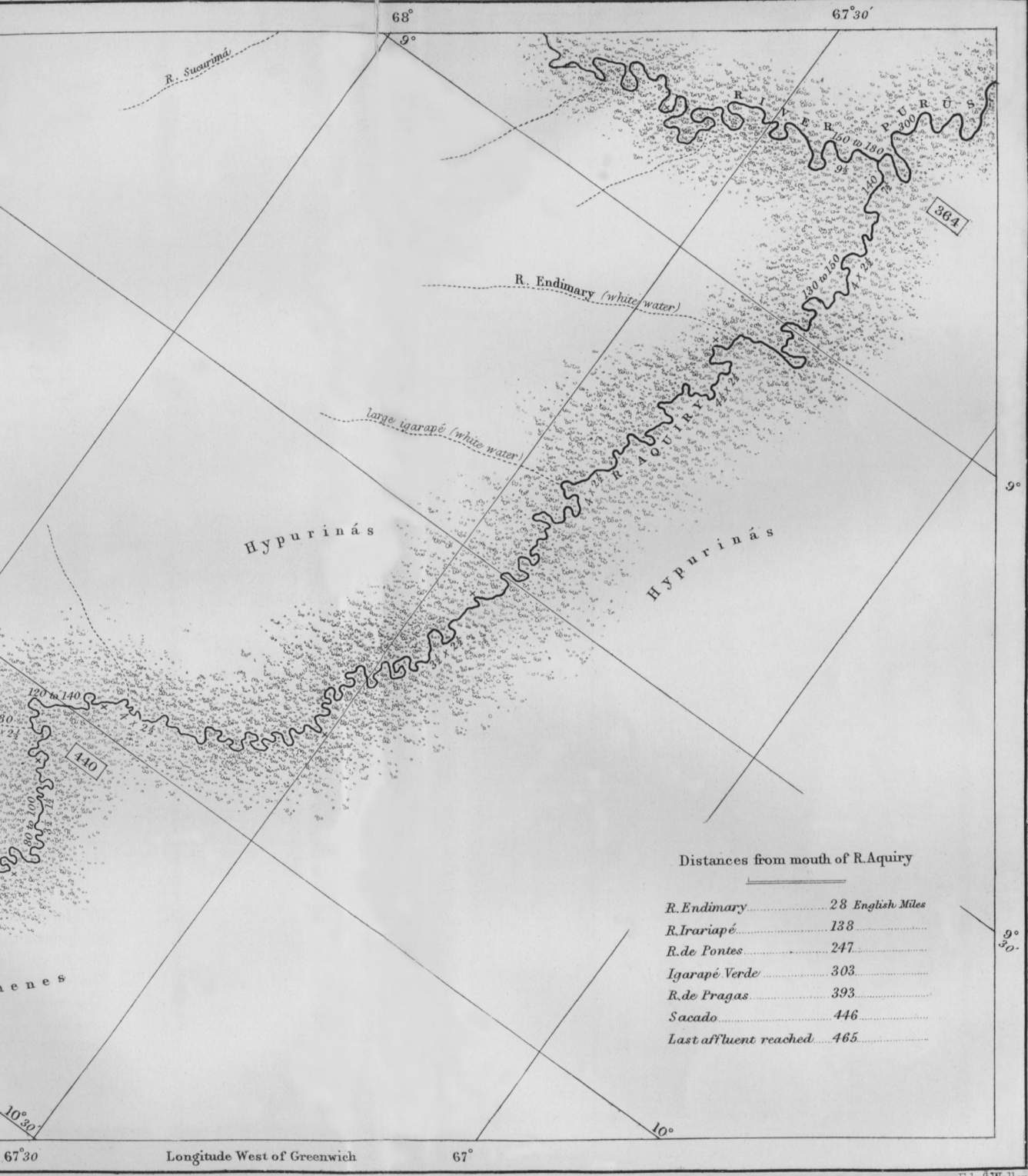
70° 30'

70°









mine) saw a good many of these Indians then on the river-bank after *tracajá's* eggs; he describes them as tall, handsome, and clear-complexioned; apparently warlike, and somewhat disposed to hostilities. Probably they are to be found also on the River Iririapé, an unexplored affluent of the Aquiri, and little inferior to this in size and depth at the mouth, but on both occasions when I passed with scarcely any perceptible current or outset; its water is extremely white, almost milky. It approaches the Hyuacú nearly; and Canamary Indians, from that river, are found on the upper part of it, as we learnt from the Hypurinás already spoken of.

On the banks of the Aquiri, near the water's edge, always below flood-mark, wild tobacco is extremely abundant, especially from about $9^{\circ} 30'$ to $10^{\circ} 30'$ s., where its flowers whitened the bank-side; in less amount, it is found also on the Purús. Among trees not found below is the palm, the leaves of which are used for making hats in Bolivia; whether it be the "Bombonassa" used in Moyobamba or not, I am ignorant. Some of my Bolivian crew being hat-makers, dried and brought down many bundles of leaves. A species of "embira," also known in Bolivia, where the bark is used for making ropes, was common and very noticeable from its dark red stem, small head, and manner of bursting into leaf, like the horse-chesnut. About $10^{\circ} 50'$ s. the thin-leaved uirana of the Amazon, not found on the Aquiri or Purús below, begins to show itself, and gradually becomes as common as the broad-leaved species ordinarily found; but it never supersedes the latter, and towards the sources of the river disappears first. Game—including in this term all land animals ordinarily eaten—is abundant in nearly all parts of the Aquiri; fish is scarce, or at any rate difficult to catch.

Up to 11° s., a distance by river of about 300 miles, we travelled without the least difficulty (Sept. 5th to 30th). Above the River de Pontes,* Manoel Urbano's farthest point, the river narrows, but this is rather owing to the nature of the ground, and the rapidity of the descent, than from much actual diminution in size. But after fairly crossing the parallel of 11° , the river definitely changes its (up-stream) course, re-crossing to the north, and then keeping nearly due west for more than a degree. At the same time it changes its character, instead of narrowing it widens out, and becomes as abundant in sand-banks (praias) as below it was scant of them. As a natural consequence the water shoals very much, and the river from this up becomes very difficult of navigation. The want of water is but one of the difficulties;

* In lack of the true, that is, the native names, I have given names to a few rivers for convenience of reference, and to avoid periphrases; having no wish that they should be permanent, I have not been particular in the choice of them.

the labyrinths of snags, and stranded or entangled timber, often occupying the whole river-bed for many hundred yards, are almost worse. Shallows with sharp currents and rock are very numerous, but there is nothing that can properly be called a rapid till above long. 70°, where the river is quite small. In general the rock is nothing more than the hardened clay of the *terra firme*, but here and there sandstone occurs, and also the pseudo-conglomerate, as I called it, of the Upper Purús. I believe the latter to be the deposit yielding the fossil-bones (all found loose); the turtle, at any rate, had a mass of this within the concavity of the shell. Loose stones in the currents are mainly of it.

On this part of the river, on the parallel of 11°, we found two distinct tribes of Indians, both apparently small. The first was very timid. One day we met some ten Indians, including two or three women, coming down-stream in a couple of “ubás;” at sight of us they made for shore, and went off into the wood, leaving all they had except bows and arrows; in vain we called to them and showed knives, beads, &c., either they did not hear or they distrusted us. The same happened a second time with a single ubá, but this time the Indians went off and alarmed a neighbouring “maloca,” so that, on our arrival there, we found there had been a general exodus. As usual we left trifling presents, which they found on their return. This bred confidence, or their desires overcame their fears, and they followed us by land, and three days afterwards came out on the river-bank calling to us. They are a fine, tall, clean race of Indians, but not good-looking; the women, however, we never saw, except at a distance in the first ubás. Their houses seem in general to be not very far inland, one to two miles on an average; they are neatly made, but for the most part mere sheds, not closed in at the sides, excepting a store-house of treasures and ornaments used in festivals, some rather curious. In the plantations I saw bananas, maize, aipim (or “yuca”), but not mandioca, also coca, papaws, sugar-cane, and cotton.* The women wear a piece of cotton-cloth round their waist, reaching half way down the thigh; at least a little girl seven or eight years old, the only child I saw, was so clad. The men go entirely naked. Despite their timidity they talk very loud, indeed with much vociferation; their pronunciation is indistinct, and somewhat guttural. Words signifying parts of the body all (that I learnt) begin with “n,” the vowel, however, following this seems to vary; there was a termination “rá” that I could not understand; thus on asking the word for “river” the answer was “washiri,” “washiri-rá,” and so in several words which they re-

* These Indians, like most, colour their faces with urucú, but I did not happen to see the plant.

peated a second time with this affix. They had some few articles of iron, all made of broken pieces, evidently bought from some tribe better supplied, probably that *above*, as indeed we understood from them; one piece had the maker's name on it, and another the trade mark, both such as are imported by way of Pará. These Indians were all well behaved, and did not attempt to steal, or, indeed, to meddle with anything in our canoes. Their canoes are all ubás, made of paxiuba palm.

The district of this tribe apparently ends some way below the River de Pragas, a large affluent on the right, about two-thirds the size of the main river above the junction. I went a short way up it, but found it so blocked up with snags and fallen trees as to be unnavigable. Doubtless it rises in the same highland to the south as the Aquiry, but at a somewhat less distance; as after rain and a consequent rise, the water had fallen a good deal in this branch, when only beginning to fall in the main one. A little below this on the left bank was high *terra firme*, about 250 feet above the level of the river, commanding an extensive view southward, not shut off by a lower ridge a few miles off running about east and west; unfortunately low rain-clouds hid the horizon. At the mouth of a small river, in long. $69^{\circ} 12'$, I went to the top of a similar, but lower *terra firme*, the east and west ridge, however, shut off the view; one of my men, who climbed a high tree, reported to s.s.w. far off blue hills, occupying but little space on the horizon, as if the end of a ridge.

Above the River de Pragas, *igarapés* and small affluents are more numerous, the great majority still as below entering on the left; consequently the river diminishes rapidly in size. Shallows and sharp currents are closer together; the rock most common in them, the hard clay, is traversed in all directions by small veins, whiter and harder, but not apparently otherwise differing from the general mass, above the surface of which they stand a quarter to half an inch; our feet were much bruised and cut by them. Fortunately after the middle of October the rain helped us. A north-west wind was as prevalent here as on the Upper Purús; on our ascent we did not meet it till fairly on the parallel of 11° , not at least as a constant wind, but on our return it accompanied us nearly down to $10^{\circ} 30'$. Here, however, the north-west wind brought the rain—sharp, driving rain, but scarcely what would be called heavy even in England. In the case of the heaviest we had, the rain-clouds came up from the south-east, but passed without raining, soon the north wind brought them back, and it rained six hours.

About long. 70° we again found signs of Indians, and soon came to a deserted maloca with a large plantation on the river-bank, with all the plants I have mentioned as seen in that of the Indians below. Some 10 miles above we reached a "port," and half-a-mile

inland the house, a large shed open all round, but with the roof reaching to about 4 feet from the ground. We found only two men there: they showed neither much surprise nor fear at sight of us; perhaps they knew of our approach, for on our return a few days later we found several families here. These two accompanied us up-stream along the bank, and in shallows assisted in dragging up the canoe. Tired of putting their bows and arrows down continually and going back for them, they left them once for all, and kept on with us entirely unarmed. They took us to another "maloca," 6 or 8 miles off, up a small affluent (River da Maloca) which our canoe could not enter; but the people of this were all absent: we wished to leave presents of beads, &c., but our guides immediately took possession of all. This tribe is distinct from the one below, not understanding the words of the latter (a score or so of which I had written down) and using different words. They differ also in features and are shorter. They had a large supply of iron, mostly, but not all, broken pieces, including fishing-hooks. This they obtain, as we understand, from the Manetenerýs* of the Purús, who extend a long way up the River Aracá, by which these trade with them. They use a good many Manetenerý words, not merely for articles of trade but even names of plants—those of the plantain and papaw, *e. g.*, are the same—they knew of salt, and asked for it, and wished to buy it: those below would not even taste it. The "tuxaua," or chief, had a poncho and hood exactly of the Manetenerý fashion. Both these Indians and the tribe below have dogs, but no other domestic animal: at least I saw none. Their ubás are generally of paxiuba, but I saw one of cedar; the bow and stern of which were of Manetenerý form, but the work much rougher. We could not find out the name of either this tribe or the one below; the answer to our questions was invariably the name of the answerer.

Above the River da Maloca, the river, here very small, has rapids. A few miles above is another affluent, the last I reached, almost equal to the main river, and which—that is, the want of which—reduces this almost to an igarapé: at a fair average place I measured it and found the width 54 feet at high-water mark, 5 feet or so above the then level of the water, now 8 or 10 inches deep at that point. In parts the river widens out into pools; in

* It should have been mentioned, as a note to the former paper, that the Brazilian explorer Serafim speaks of the Manetenerýs by the name of Cucamas; but without giving any reason for believing them such, and in fact erroneously. Mr. R. Spruce, having kindly examined the few Manetenerý words I had obtained, writes to me, "Your vocabulary, though so scanty, is quite sufficient to prove that the Manetenerýs—far from having any relationship to the Cucamas, who are a Tupinic nation—are really a section of the great Caribe nation." The word Manetenerý is said to have been (like many Indian names) originally a nickname, applied to them by the Hypurinás in reference to their urucú-dyed ponchos.

others it narrows much: in one place, but for want of running ground, I could have jumped it. The rapids here were very close together: in fact it seemed to me that the river was still descending from the ridge where it rises. The obstacle to our further progress, however, was not the frequency of the rapids, but the extreme shallowness of the water, and the men having their feet much cut by the rock I have mentioned before. But for my canoe being a very small and flat one I should not have got even thus far: the larger one I had left, with most of my men, nearly 100 miles below. The wood is an impenetrable bamboo-jungle, with few large trees near the bank, and neither uirana nor araca grow here. Below the River da Maloca piums were in full force; but above the last affluent there were absolutely none.

On my return down river, from a point in about lat. $11^{\circ} 2' \text{ s.}$, long. $67^{\circ} 54' \text{ w.}$, I started inland, striking due south, hoping, as the limits of the basin of the Aquiry were evidently very near, to reach some other river. Perhaps, had the wood been fairly clear, we might have done so: unfortunately it was very thick, which, besides rendering our progress very slow, had the effect of making it almost impossible to shoot anything, as the noise of cutting our path scared away all game. We travelled inland six days (having first spent a day in beginning the path and returned to the canoes), but returned the whole distance from our last sleeping-place, beyond which I went about 2 miles, in one day—a hard one. At 4 or 5 miles from the river-bank we crossed high land, the boundary, as I believe, of the Aquiry, and beyond this came to a succession of small streams, all with a general direction of east, running in deep little gullies, with a bottom of black boggy earth, 40 or 50 yards wide, full of tree-ferns. The largest, to which several on each side evidently converged (and probably all eventually do), was about 6 feet wide and 2 feet deep: it had now not rained for five or six days. From this point, about 20 miles from the Aquiry, I changed my course to south-east. The ground to the south of this stream did not rise again at once, but kept on low, 6 or 8 feet above the water, after the fashion of "*Varzea*," to the next stream. Beyond this point I went some 6 or 7 miles, reaching perhaps lat. $11^{\circ} 24' \text{ s.}$; of course the estimate is a rough one. In the whole distance, except within a mile or so of the Aquiry, we saw not a sign of Indians; not a foot-print; not a bough broken, nor a single chesnut—by man. In parts chesnut-trees are numerous, generally where the wood is clearest, many of them very fine large trees. India-rubber trees, also of good size and quality, are fairly common. True cocoa we saw but once; but what is called "*cacao da terra firme*" often. Among palms, the paxiuba and pataua were by far the most abundant, the latter loaded with ripe fruit: by a foolish economy we had dispensed with the burden of a camp-

kettle, and could therefore make no use of it. Sarsaparilla we did not see. A bamboo (*Camai-úna*), used, I am told, by the Indians of the Madeira for their arrows, was recognised by my Bolivians.

The only conclusions I could draw from this journey were—1st, That the existence of open plain in these parts is very doubtful. 2nd, That probably there are large tracts uninhabited, and even unfrequented, by Indians. Groping as I was in the dark I did not care to make a second start. According to Mr. Markham's map of Caravaya, I could hardly have failed, by continuing my journey about as far again, to have struck the Madre-de-Dios. Unfortunately I did not receive that map till my return to Manáos.

Besides the Aquiry my hope was to have explored, at least to some extent, the Hyuacú, the next large affluent above: the time, however, spent on the former, and the loss previously to reaching it of a part of our provisions by the sinking of an auxiliary canoe, rendered this impossible. I regret it less, however, after completing the map of the Aquiry, and seeing it jointly with the Purús. It will be observed that from my farthest point on the former to the nearest point of the latter barely exceeds 60 geographical miles. The longitude of the point on the Aquiry cannot be very much in error, as I obtained absolute observations only 25 miles east; the longitudes of the Purús are less certain, but so far as mine contradict those of other maps (of the Ucayali) they do it by excess, not by defect; therefore it is probable that the distance shown—60 miles—will not be too small. I cannot suppose that a large river passes through this gap. As the Indians cross from the upper part of the Aquiry to the Aracá, it is likely that the Hyuacú, if it reaches so far, is but small.

There is no reason to suppose the Hyuacú, or Aracá, equal to the Aquiry, much less to the Purús; least of all, that either of them can be the River Madre-de-Dios.

Geographical Positions.—On the River Aquiry, observations of latitude were taken at more than twenty points (and of time at most of these); but, from unfavourable circumstances, were not obtained at most of the important points—river-mouths, &c.: in general, however, near enough to prevent any great error. Two occultations were observed nearly on the parallel of 11° s., at the points marked "A" on the map; at the upper of these points (the mouth of Eclipse River) the end of the eclipse of the sun of Oct. 19th, 1865, and an eclipse of Jupiter's 1st satellite, were also observed: the mean* of which agreed very nearly with the result of the occultation. The following positions were determined:—

* It may seem strange to take the mean of observations usually of such different value; the eclipse of the sun, however, was scarcely more than a contact, and the

River de Pragas	lat. s.	10° 56' 40"	long. w.	4° 38' 11"	=	69° 32' 45"
River de Eclipse	"	10 55 31	"	4 39 41	=	69 55 15
Sacado (neck of bend cut off)	"	11 1 18	"	4 40 32	=	70 8 0
Last affluent reached (on left)	"	11 4 0	"	4 41 23	=	70 20 45

Geographical Position of Mandós on the Rio Grande.—The following observations to determine the longitude of Manáos (Barra do R. Negro) may perhaps be worth recording:—

1864. May 12.—κ Cancrī Oc. D., giving longitude	..	H.	M.	S.
1865. " 29.—α " " "	..	4	0	2·8
" Dec. 21.—ν Aquarii " " "	..	4	0	13·8
	..	4	0	8·7

These were all disappearances at the *dark* limb of the moon, and observed, I think, with considerable accuracy.

The Brazilian determination of longitude is 3 h. 59 m. 49 s., and of lat. 3° 8' 4" s. This latitude is about correct, and the same as given in old maps. The latitude of Barra in Lieut. Herndon's map is very erroneous.

APPENDIX.

[The following is an account of Manoel Urbano's ascent of the Mucum and Ituxy, tributaries of the Purús, translated from Dr. Coutinho's official Report to the Brazilian Government.*]

Manoel Urbano da Encarnação was commissioned to examine the portage between the Purús and the Madeira, and in doing this to enter the largest affluent of the Purús, on the right bank, above the Mucum. This river, according to the reports of the Indians, reached as far as the first falls of the Madeira, and would much facilitate the transactions between the inhabitants of the two river-valleys in future times.

On the 13th of August, 1864, Manoel Urbano entered the Mucum, supposing apparently that it led to a point above some of the falls of the Madeira. After navigating four days he met with the Içuam, an affluent of the right bank; up to this point the Mucum has from 2 to 3 fathoms of water, mean height. Entering the Içuam he navigated it as far as a village of Catauixi Indians, by whom he was informed that if he continued that way he would come out below the falls of the Madeira. Hearing this he redescended to the Mucum, bringing with him two Catauixis, and continued his way up the river, a little beyond the mouth of the Içuam the first group of rapids were met with, five in number, which he passed in the course of one day.

A day and a half beyond the last rapid the affluent Arity enters the Mucum on the left bank; it comes from the campos (grass-lands) of the Madeira: in this direction the banks of the Mucum are low. In another day he arrived at

relative motion of sun and moon extremely slow, from the objects being very near the meridian. The errors in each case were on the side they naturally would be; the end of the eclipse of the sun had been observed too soon; the *re-appearance* of Jupiter's satellite too late, as compared with the result given by the occultation.

* Contained in the 'Relatório apresentado á Assembléa Geral Legislativa na terceiro sessão da decima-segunda Legislatura,' 1865. Anexo P. p. 3. Translated by Mr. H. W. Bates, Assistant-Secretary R.G.S.

a lake called Agaam, from which there is a road to the river Marý, which enters the Purús above the mouth of the Mucuin. From this point Manoel Urbano navigated three days and a half, arriving then at the villages of the Pammaná Indians, the river in this part of its course flowing through some small tracts of open grass-land.

Mistrusting the object of his visit the Pammanás showed at first a hostile disposition, but they were soon appeased, and accompanied the explorer when he continued his journey. The river was now from 60 to 80 yards wide and three feet deep on the average. After having travelled one day further Manoel Urbano began to hear the roar of waterfalls. The river gradually became narrower and hemmed in between high banks, and it was necessary to remove the obstacles from its bed to enable the canoe to pass. Our explorer travelled in this way five days, necessarily including many delays, having to pass eight falls or rapids.

The canoe voyage then terminated and Manoel Urbano commenced his journey by land. After a march of three days and a half he arrived on the left bank of the Madeira, in the neighbourhood of the falls of Theotonio, which are the second in order of succession on this river.

Our explorer found himself now destitute of resources and with several of his Indian companions ill with intermittent fever. He set to work to make a canoe in which to descend the river and procure help and supplies.

On the 18th of September I myself passed the falls of Theotonio when on my return from Guajaru, and *en route* for the falls of St. Antonio. Urbano caught sight of our party, and crossed the river to communicate with us. He no longer found me, however, at the landing-place when he arrived, and it being late he passed the night there, continuing the next day his route towards St. Antonio. I left this place very early in the morning, and therefore Manoel Urbano was not able to meet with me; the commandant of the frontier post, however, gave him some provisions and medicines. He returned to the Purús by the same route he had come.

From these data it may be seen that the Mucuin is navigable at half-flood during eleven days in large canoes, and five days further in small canoes. It is probable that this distance may be accomplished in less time, seeing the delays that Manoel Urbano met with, owing to the necessity of fishing and hunting for subsistence, and accompanied mostly by a large number of Indians. The distance he travelled by land in three and a half days may be put down as about thirty miles. The report that the source of the Mucuin reached the first falls of the Madeira is therefore confirmed, and the question of a communication existing between the Madeira and the Purús, at this point, now resolved.

After obtaining fresh supplies, Manoel Urbano ascended the Purús to the mouth of its affluent, the Ituxý, with the intention of examining the portage between this river and the Madeira. From the Mucuin to the Ituxý occupied him ten and a half days. Ascending the Ituxý five days, he arrived at its affluent, the Punicici. The depth of the river (Ituxý?) was found to be from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 fathoms, and is said to reach 6 fathoms in the wet season. A few villages of Pammanás, partly reclaimed from the wild state, were met with.

He entered the Punicici, arriving at the end of five days' journey where the falls commence, which are two in number. A little below the first is situated a village of Hyapurínas, up to which the depth of the river is 2 fathoms. Three days further up the river scarcely admits of being navigated, being so choked up with trees and rapids. The width does not exceed 60 feet. On the 25th, Manoel Urbano continued his journey by land, and after four days' march he came to a rocky hill. Here he heard the sound of falls, but was not able to continue his journey for want of provisions. It is probable that the distance from the landing-place of the Ituxý to the Madeira is longer than that from the

Mucum to the Madeira, considering the longer journey by water on this river. Below the mouth of the Punicici, on the right bank of the Ituxy, is the mouth of the Puciarý, which is said to have no rapids or falls, and to flow through extensive tracts of open country. It is probable that a canoe may ascend farther by this stream, and thus the distance by land to the Madeira be much reduced. If, by ascending the Ituxy, the ascent of the current *Tres Irmaõs* and the *Girao* falls of the Madeira can be avoided, there will be no doubt that this is the best way to the upper Madeira for the inhabitants of the Purús; but for those who descend the Madeira it will be better to pass the rapids and falls than to cross by the portage to the Purús.

When the left bank of the Beni becomes peopled the Purús will be of great service to the inhabitants, for they will be enabled to go by it in a straight course to the Amazons, avoiding the great *détour* by the Madeira. To the people of the Mamoré and Uaporé the best route is by the way of the Madeira.

J. M. DA SILVA COUTINHO.

VIII.—*Notes on Peking and its Neighbourhood.*

By W. LOCKHART, Esq.

Read, April 23, 1866.

THIS city, the present capital of China, was originally called Yew-chau, from the Hun dynasty to the Wootae, or five kingdoms or principedoms,—202 B.C. to 950 A.D. It was called Nanking in the Liau dynasty, A.D. 1000, because the northern capital was beyond the Great Wall. Also called Pe-ping, or Northern Peace, in the Han dynasty, and by Hung-wu of the Ming dynasty.

In 1111 B.C., Wan-wang, of the Chau dynasty, named his brother Prince of Yen, who built a city on what is now the western side of the Chinese quarter or division of the city of Peking, and extended some distance to the westward; this was called Yen-king, and the ornamental marble work of this old city now forms the foundation-stones of the western portion of the walls of the present city.

About 1200 A.D., Gengis-Khan, the chief of the Mongol Tartars, took Yen-king, and his son Octai prosecuted his conquests, and put an end to the Kin dynasty.

In 1267, Kachilai Khan, nephew of Octai, and grandson of Gengis-Khan, destroyed Yen-king, and a little to the north-east of its site built another city, called Tatu, or King-ching, or Shun-teen-fu, or, as it is now called, Peking. This is the Kam-balik or Cambalu, the City of the Khan of Marco Polo. The Yuen or Mongol dynasty held their court at Peking from 1280 to 1368 A.D.; but when that dynasty was set aside in 1369, Hung-wu, of the Ming dynasty, removed the court to Nanking, where it remained till Yung-lo (the third of the Ming) having embellished Peking, made it his court.